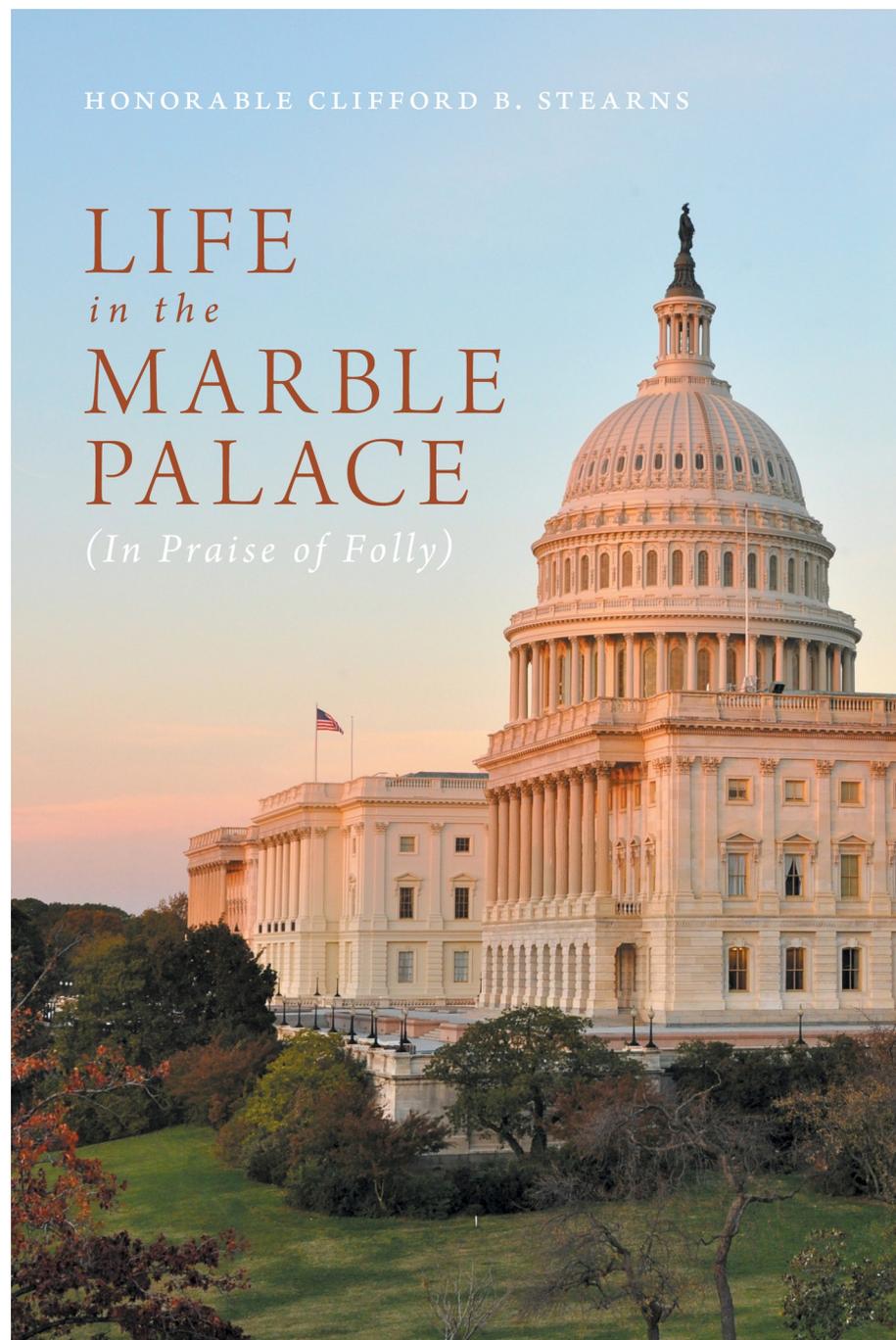
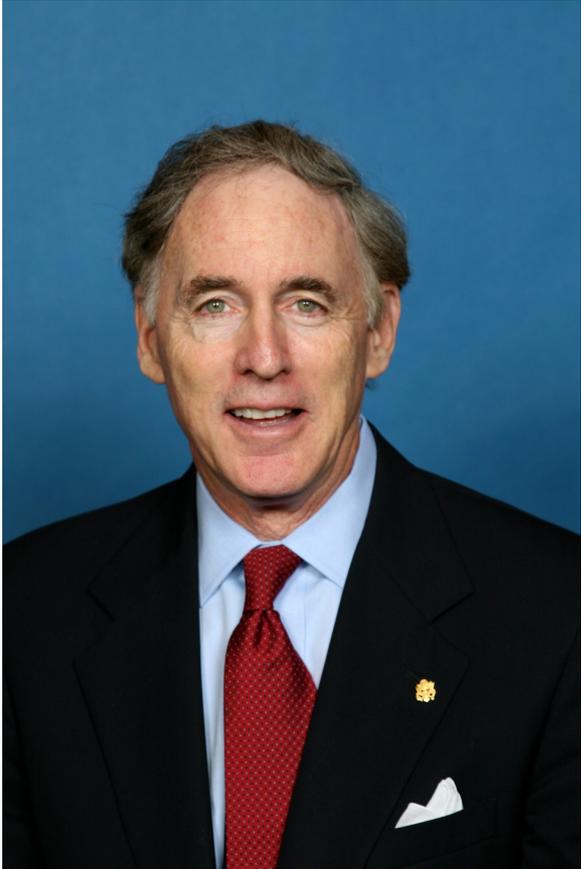


# PRESS KIT

## Honorable Clifford B. Stearns



# About the Author



## Honorable Clifford B. Stearns

Cliff Stearns is an Executive Director based in APCO Worldwide's Washington, DC, office and serves as a member of APCO's International Advisory Council. Recently he was elected President of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC). He is a former Member of Congress for Florida's 6th district, where he gained extensive experience in telecommunications, technology, cybersecurity and international trade during his twenty-four years of service. Congressman Stearns was also a business owner of motels and restaurants before being elected to Congress. As chair of the Energy & Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, he helped increase transparency in the federal government and led the Solyndra investigation. Congressman Stearns served as the Republican leader on the Communications,

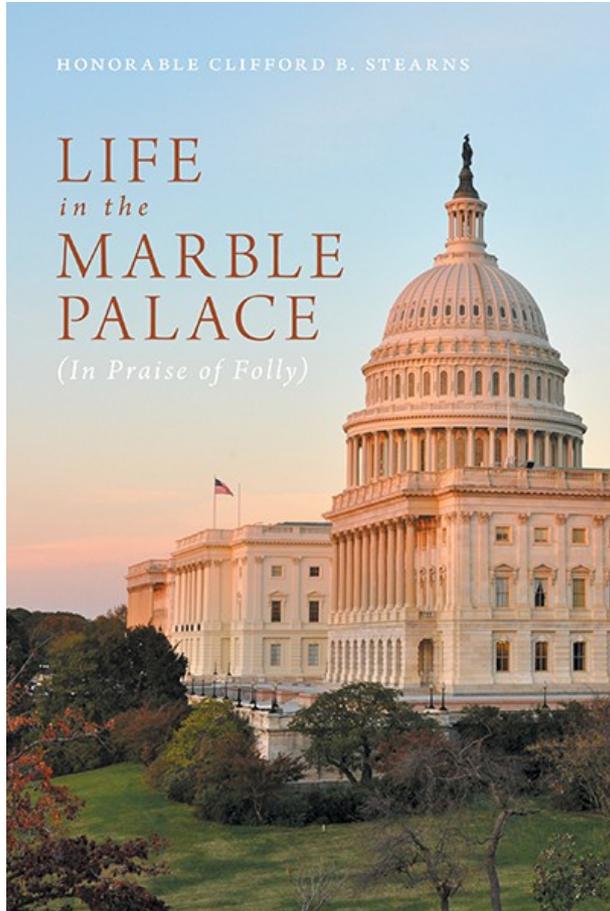
Technology and Internet Subcommittee and was chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, where he enacted consumer privacy and data security legislation. He is a graduate of the George Washington University with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a captain in the United States Air Force and served four years as an aerospace project engineer providing satellite reconnaissance of Vietnam. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for distinguished service and meritorious achievement and later, as a Congressman, received the Air Force Association W. Stuart Symington Award, the highest honor presented to a civilian in the field of national security. Mr. Stearns lives in Ocala, Florida, with his wife Joan. He and Joan have three grown sons.

**Website:** [www.cliffordstearns.com](http://www.cliffordstearns.com)

**E-mail:** [cliffstearns2016@gmail.com](mailto:cliffstearns2016@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (202) 809-7306

# About the Book



## **Life in the Marble Palace**

### **(In Praise of Folly)**

By the Honorable Clifford B. Stearns

As a 24 year former member of the United States Congress, Mr. Stearns describes the lessons he learned from getting elected and re-elected, his experience as a legislator and finally the lessons he learned about our Republic. These lessons go to the heart of explaining what must be done to preserve our 240 year experiment in democracy. He describes the tumultuous period of the Speaker Gingrich years, the 2008 Great recession, numerous scandals including the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the loss and regaining of the Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives.

### **From *Life in the Marble Palace*...**

*It is a sacred responsibility.*

*In the great ideas of philosophy and Aristotle on the Perfect Life, he was asked what would be the best form of life one could live. He explains "the best form of life, the eudaimonia outcome, given all that, would be the life of the good lawgiver." Not the billionaire, not the priest or saint or health giver, but the legislator.*

*Why? Because he is immersed in the political needs and realities of his time and contributing to the "polis"-(city state of Greece) through legislative activity and through his own virtuous conduct. He then can contribute in such a way that the state-country, like a person, perfects itself, and it perfects itself by regulating itself more perfectly.*

*Life in the Marble Palace (In Praise of Folly)* by the Honorable Clifford B. Stearns, produced by FriesenPress, is available for order from most major online book retailers, including the FriesenPress Bookstore and Amazon. The eBook is available for Amazon Kindle, iTunes Bookstore, Chapters/Indigo Kobo, Barnes and Noble's Nook, and GooglePlay.

# Book Details

## Life in the Marble Palace

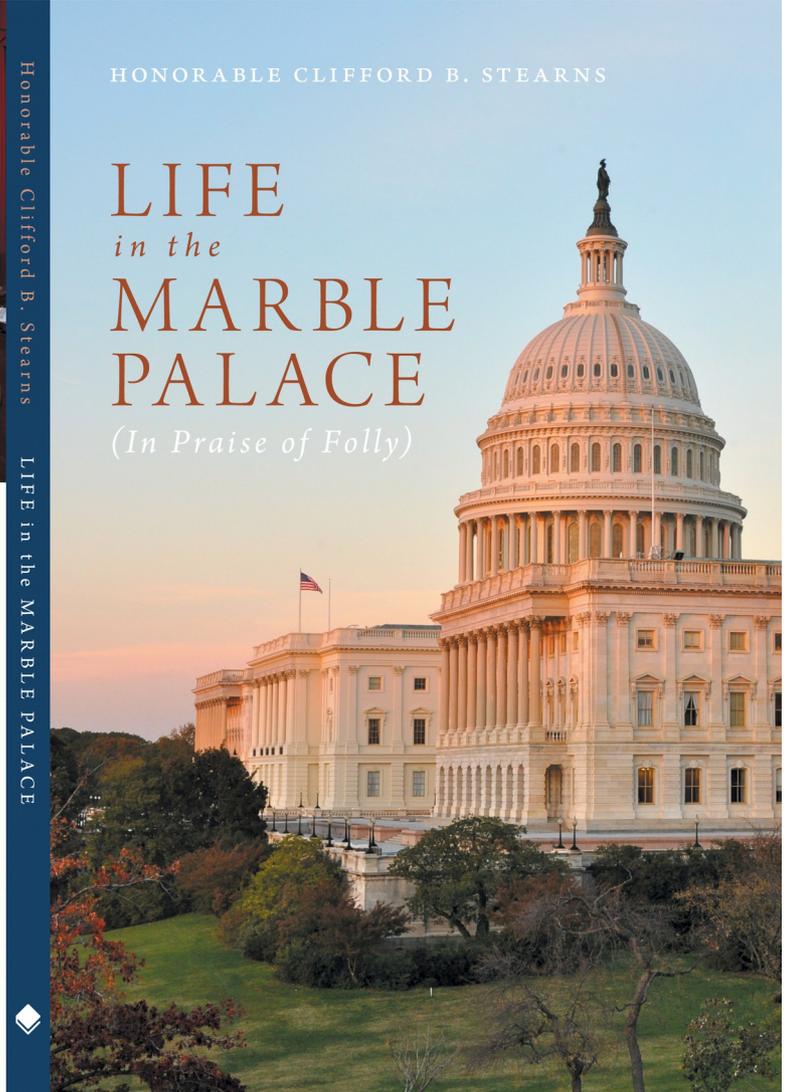
### (In Praise of Folly)

By the Honorable Clifford B. Stearns



As a 24 year former member of the United States Congress, Mr. Stearns describes the lessons he learned from getting elected and re-elected, his experience as a legislator and finally the lessons he learned about our Republic. These lessons go to the heart of explaining what must be done to preserve our 230 year experiment in democracy. He describes the tumultuous period of the Speaker Gingrich years, the 2008 Great recession, numerous scandals including the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the loss and regaining of the Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives.

 FriesenPress



#### Book Details:

192 pages

Standard Color - Paperback

6 x 9 inches

#### ISBNs:

978-1-4602-8760-6 *Hardcover*

978-1-4602-8761-3 *Paperback*

978-1-4602-8762-0 *eBook*

#### Categories:

Biography & Autobiography, Personal Memoirs

Biography & Autobiography, Political

Political Science, Government, Legislative Branch

#### Keywords:

Congress, House Of Representatives, Politics, Corruption,

Influence Peddling, Goldman Sachs, Solyndra Scandal

# Bookstore



As a 24 year former member of the United States Congress, Mr. Stearns describes the lessons he learned from getting elected and re-elected, his experience as a legislator and finally the lessons he learned about our Republic. These lessons go to the heart of explaining what must be done to preserve our 230 year experiment in democracy. He describes the tumultuous period of the Speaker Gingrich years, the 2008 Great recession, numerous scandals including the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the loss and regaining of the Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives.

 FriesenPress

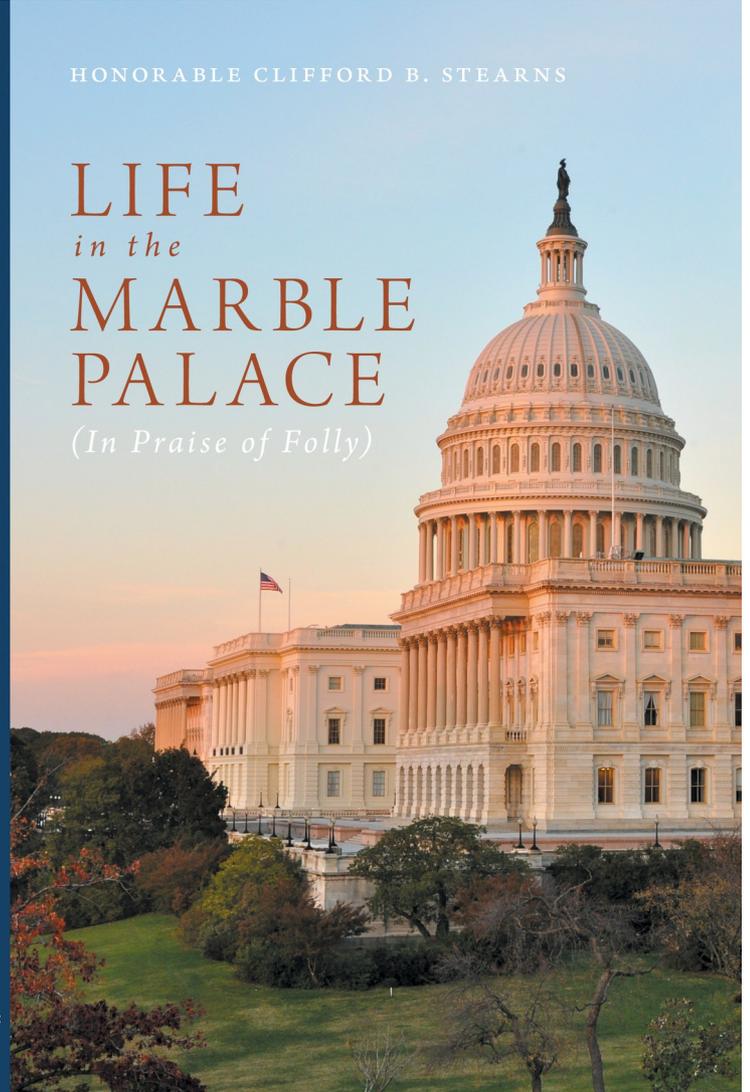


Honorable Clifford B. Stearns

LIFE in the MARBLE PALACE

HONORABLE CLIFFORD B. STEARNS

## LIFE *in the* MARBLE PALACE *(In Praise of Folly)*



***Life in the Marble Palace*** is available from any of the following retailers...

### **Print Edition**

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

[FriesenPress](https://www.friesenpress.com)

[Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

### **eBookEdition**

[Amazon Kindle](https://www.amazon.com)

[FriesenPress](https://www.friesenpress.com)  
(ePub, Mobi, PDF)

[iBooks](#)

[GooglePlay \(coming soon\)](#)

[Barnes & Noble's Nook](#)

[Indigo's Kobo](#)

# Kirkus Review

A former Republican congressman recalls a lifetime of public service.

Debut author Stearns served as the U.S. representative for Florida's 6th Congressional District for 24 years, his longevity alone a notable accomplishment. He wrote this memoir episodically over the course of eight years, while still in office, and it's less a linear history than a series of reflective essays on his experiences and the inner machinations of American legislation, as well as the general nature of freedom, democracy, and religion. Much of the book serves as an instructive primer on American governance, an insider's civic tutorial. Stearns not only explains the basic structure of the nation's legislative branch—with emphasis on the function of the House—but also the mechanics of fund-raising and campaigning, the extraordinary significance of committee membership, and the often mercenary character of intraparty competition. The author unabashedly shares his opinion, even when it's forcefully critical of a colleague; he excoriates Dennis Hastert's reign as speaker of the House, especially for his misguided contributions to the economic catastrophe that visited the country at the conclusion of George W. Bush's presidency. Stearns also denounces the Bush administration's bailout of the banking industry, a strategy, the author contends, that undermines the Republican Party's commitment to free market principles. (Stearns takes a hard stand against both socialism and Keynesian economics, which share the aggrandizement of government at the expense of individual liberty.) Some of the remembrances are directed analytically at special policy proposals (ObamaCare turns out to be incorrigibly bad) or major events in recent political history (President Bill Clinton's impeachment and the Iraq War provide fodder for memorable discussions). But some of the best of Stearns' ruminations are surprisingly erudite—he often cites intellectual luminaries like Aristotle, Kant, Seneca, and Herodotus, to name a few—and philosophical. He deeply ponders the nature of freedom and divine law, and the relation both have to the fallible dictates of majority rule. It's not fully clear where Stearns finally lands in that theoretical thicket—he champions limited government, but also favors a robust place for religion in the public square. Even for those who count themselves the author's ideological adversaries, this work delivers a thoughtful appraisal of American democracy and an edifying peek into the corridors of political power.

An assemblage of admirably forthcoming first-person essays about the practice of American legislation.

**- Kirkus Reviews**

# Foreword Clarion Review

This congressional exposé contains much hard-won wisdom and heartfelt critique, and should be read by every concerned citizen.

In *Life in the Marble Palace: In Praise of Folly*, Clifford B. Stearns, a twenty-four-year member of the House of Representatives, lifts the curtain on what it's like to be "on the board of the most powerful body in the world—the United States of America." Revelatory and sometimes shocking, Stearns's report of what really goes on behind the scenes in the United States Congress is a call to all American citizens to wake up and take action to preserve what is left of the nation's threatened democracy.

Calling membership in the House of Representatives "the best job in America," "an honor," and "a sacred responsibility," Stearns points to the Federalist Papers as indicative that the nation's Founding Fathers wanted to create a new kind of republic, one that would disperse the power of factions or moneyed interest groups so that they could neither dominate the minority nor become a constant majority.

Pointing out valid reasons why the United States is a nation unique in the history of the world, Stearns also notes that no democracy or republic has ever lasted more than 240 years, and from his vantage point of long-term service in Congress, he is aware of many problems and flaws that could lead to the nation's collapse.

One of these, and perhaps the most serious due to its pervasive and corrupting influence on all aspects of congressional functioning, is the role of money in politics. Stearns advocates for "a real campaign finance bill that puts a ceiling on campaign contributions," noting that in Canada and the United Kingdom, campaigns are capped at fifty thousand dollars and still manage to get the job done. "We do not need to spend \$13 million on a congressional seat," he declares. "The voters can decide without all this money being spent."

Moreover, while in office, members of Congress must engage in constant fundraising, he says, as leadership roles are decided by the amount of money a member can raise and give to party efforts. This gives rise to scandals and to the undue influence of large contributors who demand not just access to, but influence in, the political process.

(continued on next page)

# Foreword Clarion Review (ctd.)

Stearns's warning that "he who is afraid to lose an election will never be able to do what is right," is an example of his pithy and to-the-point commentary. His book takes a serious yet conversational tone to make a strong case for the need for change in the American political process.

Especially illuminating is Stearns's clarification of the concept of freedom, which must, he writes, be based on people's ability to discipline individual desire and act for the greatest good of the whole, a characteristic which he finds sadly lacking in the general population these days.

...

A timeline of world events from the years Stearns served in Congress, a collection of relevant letters and documents, a section filled with color photographs, and an ample index enhance this valuable contribution to American political literature.

Life in the Marble Palace contains much hard-won wisdom, valuable historical information, political and economic analysis, and heartfelt critique, and should be read by every concerned citizen.

**- Foreword Clarion Reviews**

# Reader Reviews

Interesting, informative, insights reference to the United States Congress and its issues and dynamics. Once started, I could not put it down and I read it all of the way through. To paraphrase the old saying "politics is like sausage, you don't want to see it made."

Stearns outlines in a series of topical chapters an mélange of personal, moral and classical philosophical observations coupled with a variety of major issues, analyses and preferences. He describes the hard nasty trade offs of congressional committee appointments and the policy ramifications e.g. the dichotomy of what is best for the member of congress versus what is best for the country. Rarely these elements are congruent.

His vignette totally reflects why government is ineffective and inefficient. To quote a long ago graduate school professor of mine "The stated purpose of legislation is never the real purpose; rather the unseen one is the real one."

There is another quote that I am reminded of on the element of freedom, which Stearns talks about, i.e. "freedom without responsibility is mere license."

This is the reason why all citizens who are interested in our country and its future welfare should read this book.

**- LT COL Ed Johnson, United States Army Ret.**

# Press Release

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **FORMER CONGRESSMAN REVEALS “LIFE IN THE MARBLE PALACE” New Book Gives Insider Look into Belly of American Politics**

[Ocala, FL – 24 November 2016] The most recent presidential election has come and gone, but American politics and the uncertain future of the United States still weighs heavily on many minds. The nation appears deeply divided, with an itch to make some serious internal repairs. But that doesn't just come from the president. In his new book, *Life in the Marble Palace (In Praise of Folly)*, former Republican congressman Clifford B. Stearns offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the belly of American politics: Congress. Stearns identifies the Legislative Branch's weak points and offers his analysis on the system – what works, what doesn't, and what to do about it.

*Life in the Marble Palace (In Praise of Folly)* by the Honorable Clifford B. Stearns is a memoir steeped with political insight and history. Stearns covers the tumultuous period of the Speaker Gingrich years, the 2008 Great recession, numerous scandals including the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, and the loss and regaining of the Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives – all between 1989 and 2013.

Having served in the House of Representatives through four presidencies, Stearns has gained a great understanding of Congress' efficiencies and deficiencies, and what must be done to avoid losing the Republic. *Life in the Marble Palace* reveals just that.

*Life in the Marble Palace (In Praise of Folly)* by the Honorable Clifford B. Stearns, produced by FriesenPress, is available for order from most major online book retailers, including the FriesenPress Bookstore and Amazon. The eBook is available for Amazon Kindle, iTunes Bookstore, Chapters/Indigo Kobo, Barnes and Noble's Nook, and GooglePlay.

#### **About the Author**

Clifford Stearns has held many notable titles including Member of Congress for Florida's 6th district, business owner, USAF officer, chair of the Energy & Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, Republican leader on the Communications, Technology and Internet subcommittee, and chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade. Stearns lives in Ocala, Florida, with his wife, Joan. This is his first book.

###

#### **Contact**

Clifford Stearns  
(202) 809-7306  
cbstearns@gmail.com  
www.cliffordstearns.com

# Media

## Videos

President Ronald Reagan Endorses  
Cliff Stearns

<https://youtu.be/KK98IAfSBSE>

Cliff Stearns pointedly questions  
former Treasury Secretary Paulson

<https://youtu.be/fayl3nEEK5U>



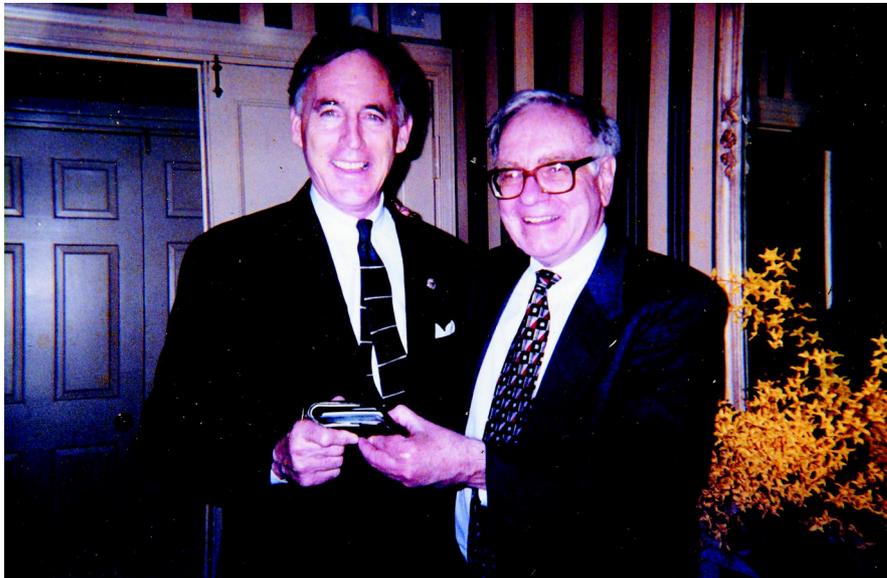
## Photos



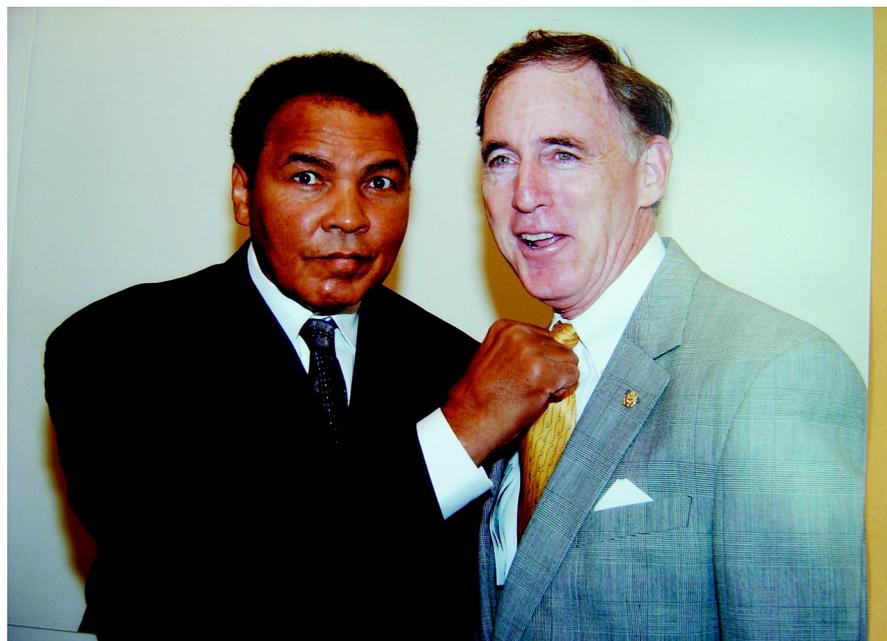
# Media



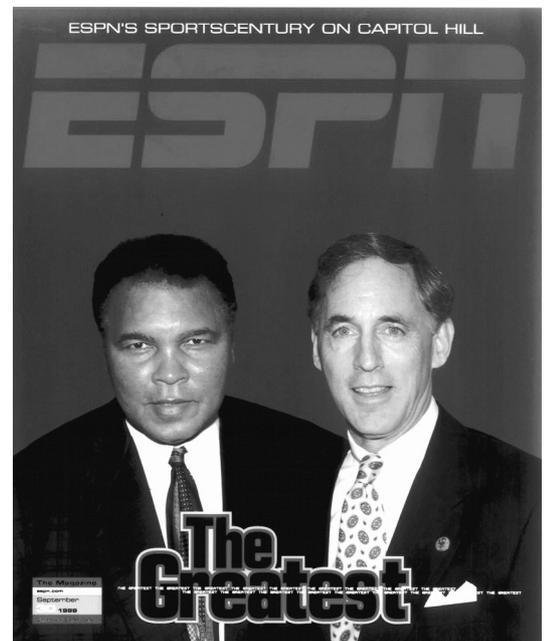
Healthcare Press Conference



Warren Buffett and Cliff Stearns



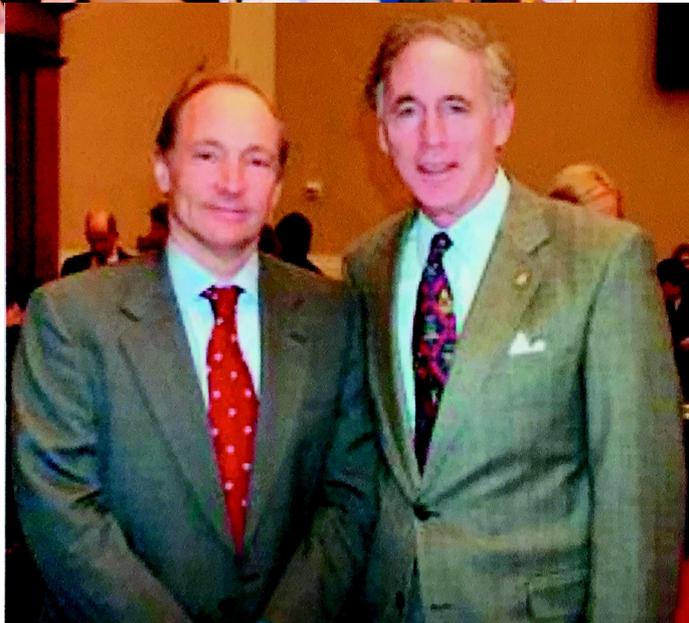
Muhammad Ali and Cliff



# Media

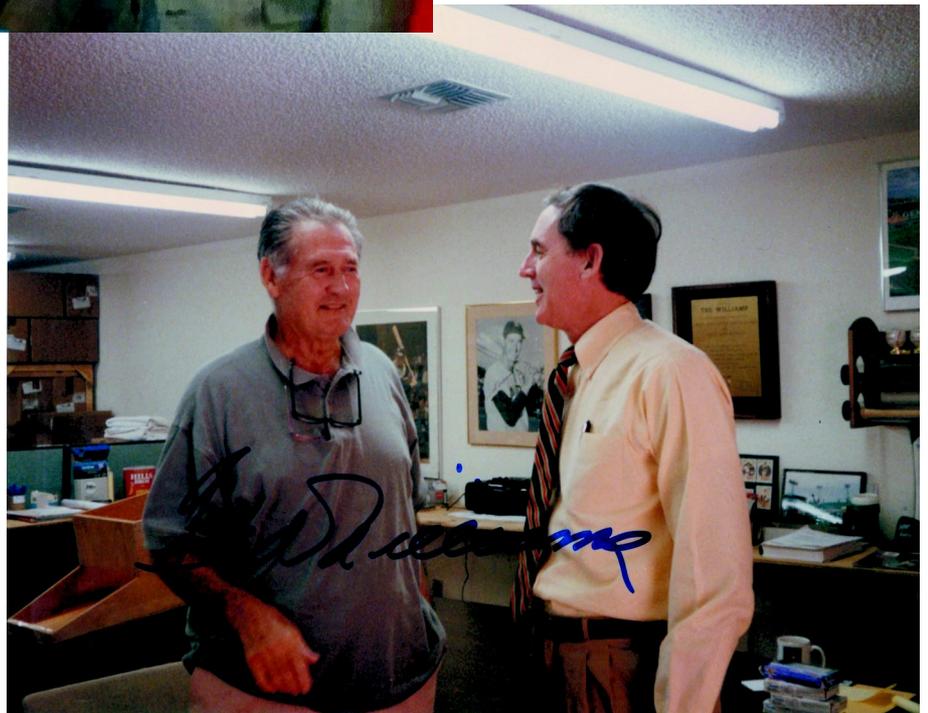


Jeb and George Bush  
with Cliff Stearns



Cliff and Tim Berners-Lee

Ted Williams & Cliff Stearns



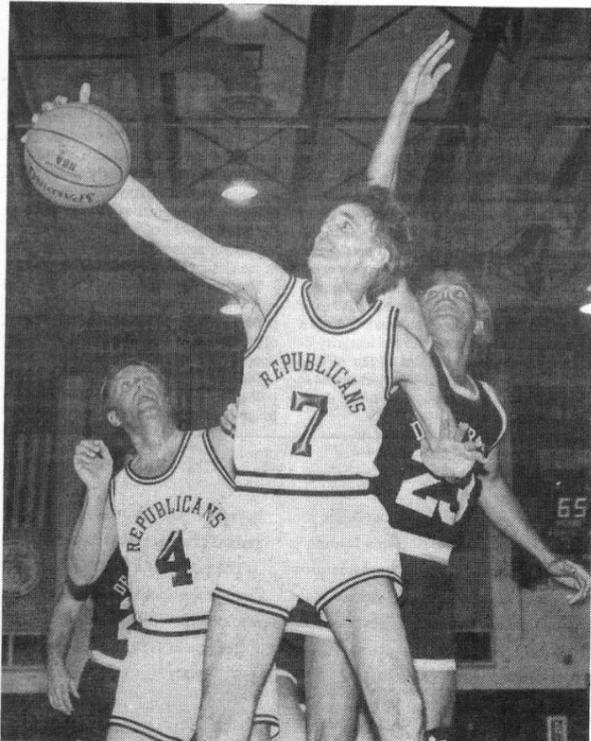


Photo by Maureen Keating

Rep. Cliff Stearns, the Republicans' Most Valuable Player in Tuesday night's Congressional Basketball Charity Tournament, takes the rebound. Stearns was the GOP high scorer with 18 points. Behind him at right is the Democrats' MVP, Rep. Marty Russo, who scored 9 points. At left, Rep. Mike "Ox" Oxley, the Elephant captain, who tallied 13.

## McMillen Scores 36 In Dems' 73-65 Win

By Tim Curran

Despite strong perimeter play, a feisty Republican squad failed to overcome the 36 points scored by Rep. Tom McMillen (D-Md), an NBA veteran, and fell to the Democrats, 73-65, Tuesday night in the fourth Congressional Basketball Charity Tournament at Gallaudet University.

The victory included the biggest scoring display in the short history of the contest. It was the *Dunkin'* Donkeys second straight win, giving them a series advantage of three games to one. The game opened with Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-Ill), a superb singer, leading the record crowd in a rousing rendition of the national anthem.

McMillen set the tone immediately, scoring the first basket of the game off the rebound of a missed shot by Rep. Marty Russo (D-Ill).

Freshman Cliff Stearns (R-Fla) showed the GOP strategy early, launching a three-pointer to put the Fighting Elephants ahead, 3-2. The teams battled up and down the court, the Democrats taking it inside to the 6'11" McMillen, the Republicans launching outside shots. At halftime, the Democrats led, 38-30.

In the second half, Majority Whip Bill Gray (Pa) showed up to help cheer his party on, but the Republicans bounced back, buoyed by staffers chanting "G-O-P."

Down by 10, the Elephants practiced deficit reduction as they hit from the floor to trim the Donkey lead. Midway through the fourth quarter, MVP Stearns brought the Republicans within one point, sinking back-to-back three-pointers to cut the Democrats' lead to 60-59.

The game remained tight until the three-minute mark, when McMillen took over, scoring seven consecutive points and stretching the lead to 8 over the next two minutes. The Republicans couldn't counter the Rhodes Scholar down the stretch.

Outstanding for the GOP were Reps. Mike Oxley (Ohio), with 13 points; Stearns, 18 points; Jack Fields (Texas), 8 points; John Kasich (Ohio), 8 points; and Ron Machtley (RI), 7 points.

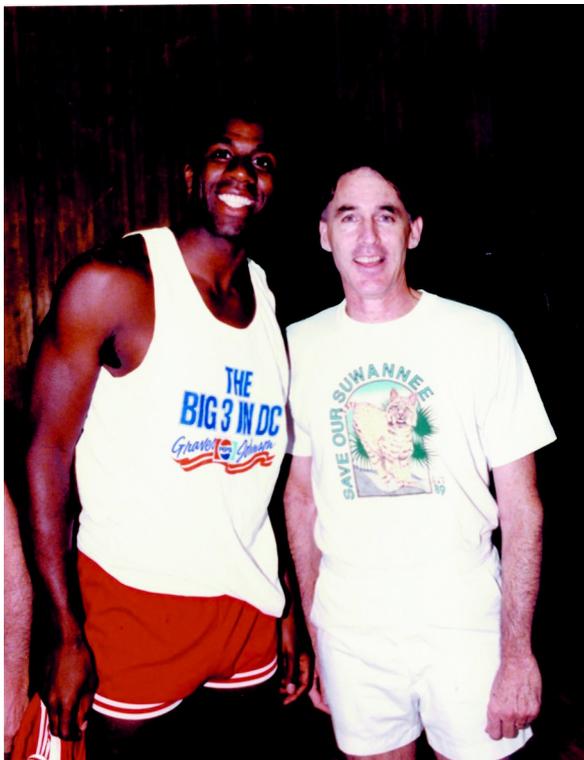
In addition to McMillen, Democratic

*Down by 10, the GOP practiced deficit reduction, hitting from the floor to trim the Donkey lead to one point.*

highlights were provided by Reps. Tom Downey (NY), the team's captain, who scored 10 points; Democratic MVP Russo, 9 points; Martin Sabo (Minn), 6 points; and Jim Bates (Calif), 4 points.

At halftime, Gallaudet President King Jordan received a check for \$5,000 from tournament sponsors, including the Grocery Manufacturers of America. That amount that will be matched by private donations, bringing the total raised to \$10,000.

The money will go to the Frederick C. Schreiber Institute at Gallaudet.



Magic Johnson & Cliff Stearns

# Media



The Capitol from Cliff's window



Cliff's Office overlooking the Capitol